Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims of the subject application as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for applying data from a first hierarchical data structure to a second hierarchical data structure, comprising:

receiving at least one source element from the first hierarchical data

structure and at least one target element from the second hierarchical data

structure;

determining whether source elements and target elements have child

elements;

copying data from a the source element to a the target element if the source element and

the target element have no child elements;

separating the source data elements from a the source element and applying the source

data elements to at least one target child data element of a target element if the source

element has no child elements and the target element has at least one target child

element;

concatenating at least one source child data element of a source element into one value

and applying the one value to a child of the target data element if the source data

element has at least one source child data element and the target data element has no

target child target data elements;

comparing a source child data element of a source element to a target child data element

of a target element and determining a match; and

copying data from a the source child data element to a the target child data element where a match is determined.; and

repeating the previous steps until all target data elements have been examined.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a definition and configuration of a datatype from a user.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a definition and configuration of a source and target datatype mapping from a user.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a definition and configuration of a match strategy from a user.

5. (original) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium incorporating the method of claim 1.

6. (currently amended) A system for applying data from a first hierarchical data structure to a second hierarchical data structure, comprising:

a means for receiving at least one source element from the first hierarchical data

structure and at least one target element from the second hierarchical data

structure;

a means for determining whether source elements and target elements have child

elements;

a means for copying data from a the source element to a the target element if the source

element and the target element have no child elements;

a means for separating the source data elements from a the source element and applying

the source data elements to at least one target child data element of a target element if

the source element has no child elements and the target element has at least one target child element;

means for concatenating at least one source child data element of a source element into one value and applying the one value to a child of the target data element if the source data element has at least one source child data element and the target data element has no target child target data elements;

a-means for comparing a source child data element of a source element to a target child data element of a target element and determining a match; and

a-means for copying data from a-the source child data element to a-the target child data element where a match is determined, ; and

repeating the previous steps until all target data elements have been examined.

7. (withdrawn) A computer-readable medium containing a data structure for sharing data between hierarchical databases, comprising:

a source hierarchical data structure comprising source datatypes;

a source lineage for linking related source datatypes into families;

a target hierarchical data structure comprising target datatypes;

a target lineage for linking related target datatypes into families;

measures of similarity and similarity match tolerances;

match strategies;

results of a similarity transformation and an effectiveness indicia of match strategies.

8. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, further comprising mappings between source datatype elements and target datatype elements.

9. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the source and target datatypes each comprise a datatype name, a parent datatype reference, and an element.

10. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the source and target hierarchical data structures each comprise a parent datatype reference and an element of a datatype having a datatype reference, an element reference, and an alias name.

11. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the element comprises an element name, a datatype reference, a positional reference, an element reference, and an alias name.

12. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the measures of similarity and similarity match tolerances comprise a comparison algorithm that identifies an algorithm name, an implementation, and implementation parameters.

13. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the match strategies comprise a comparison by context, comparison by element, comparison by data type, and comparison by attribute for each of the strategies, and an ordering of strategies according to accuracy.

14. (withdrawn) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the mappings comprise mappings associated with source and target datatypes, mapping specifications, source data schema, target data schema, source data, and target data.